

LIFE AFTER ROCK

# PHIL VARONE

The Saigon Kick and Skid Row drummer turned 40 and traded groupies and blow for a wife and a cooking show

"IN 1988, four of us formed Saigon Kick, which was my first real band. We got signed and had a hit with 'Love Is on the Way.' It did well, but it put us into that 'acoustic ballad rock' category, which hurt us because we got shuffled aside once grunge happened.

At 23, touring blew me away. I'd jam with Cheap Trick, then end up running out of a girl's place when her husband came home. After Saigon Kick imploded in 1996, I joined

Skid Row, which put me into a whole new level of rock stardom, with more cool tours, more drugs and more chicks to have sex with.

I got to play with a lot of great bands, but I sacrificed a lot, and I'm lucky I survived."

**DRUMMER**  
SAIGON KICK (1988-1996),  
SKID ROW (2000-2004)



**LECTURER**  
DEVELOPING A  
COOKING SHOW

"ONCE I HIT 40, I got sober. Right now I live in L.A. with my wife, Alisha, and I lecture at colleges behind my documentary, *Waking Up Dead*, which shows the highs of being in a great band and the lows of cocaine overdoses and losing marriages. A lot of people appreciate how honest it is, but there are always some guys who ask, 'How many chicks did you screw?' I also have a development deal to host a cooking show called *Rock Star Recipe*, where I'll have my rock-star friends on." *As told to Dan Reilly*

## NEWS ROUNDUP

Kurt Cobain's ashes were stolen from the pink-and-white teddy-bear-shaped bag where **Courtney Love** kept them, she told a reporter for *News of the World*: "I find it disgusting, and right now I'm suicidal."

After bonding with *Streets of Blood* costar Val Kilmer over a love of vintage vehicles, **50 Cent** gave the actor a car from his collection—a 1965 Chevy Impala worth \$100,000. The two play cops opposite Sharon Stone.



32 "Darlin', don't you go and cut your hair/Do you think it's gonna make him change?"



DO YOU ROCK?

# DAVID BANNER

Does the rapper who once testified in front of Congress indeed ... ROCK?

**Ever trashed a hotel room?**

I have, but not with the intention of trashing it. There were other things going on at the time.

**OK, like what?**

Me and a particular female were having a horizontal wrestling match that got out of hand.

**Biggest celeb's home you've ever gotten drunk in?**

Versace. He was already dead.

**Brush with the law?**

Anytime you're black and got money there's going to be a problem. I get most of mine from speeding. I do, like, 180 mph.

**Stupidest thing you've eaten?**

This fat Cambodian lady, when I was 15.

**Craziest rider clause?**

An albino duck-billed platypus. I haven't found a venue that's been able to get one yet.

**It's dinnertime, what's cooking?**

Chicken stir-fry. My mother taught me to make it. She's the best cook in the United States.

*Jon Copton*



**A Cambodian-eating horizontal-wrestler with a fondness for platypuses? David Banner super double rocks!**

**OUT NOW** *The Greatest Story Ever Told* (SRC/Universal Motown)

## WORD!

"I think he'll marry me to keep me in the country."  
**M.I.A. on Kanye West, a week before getting engaged to Ben Brewer of the Exit**